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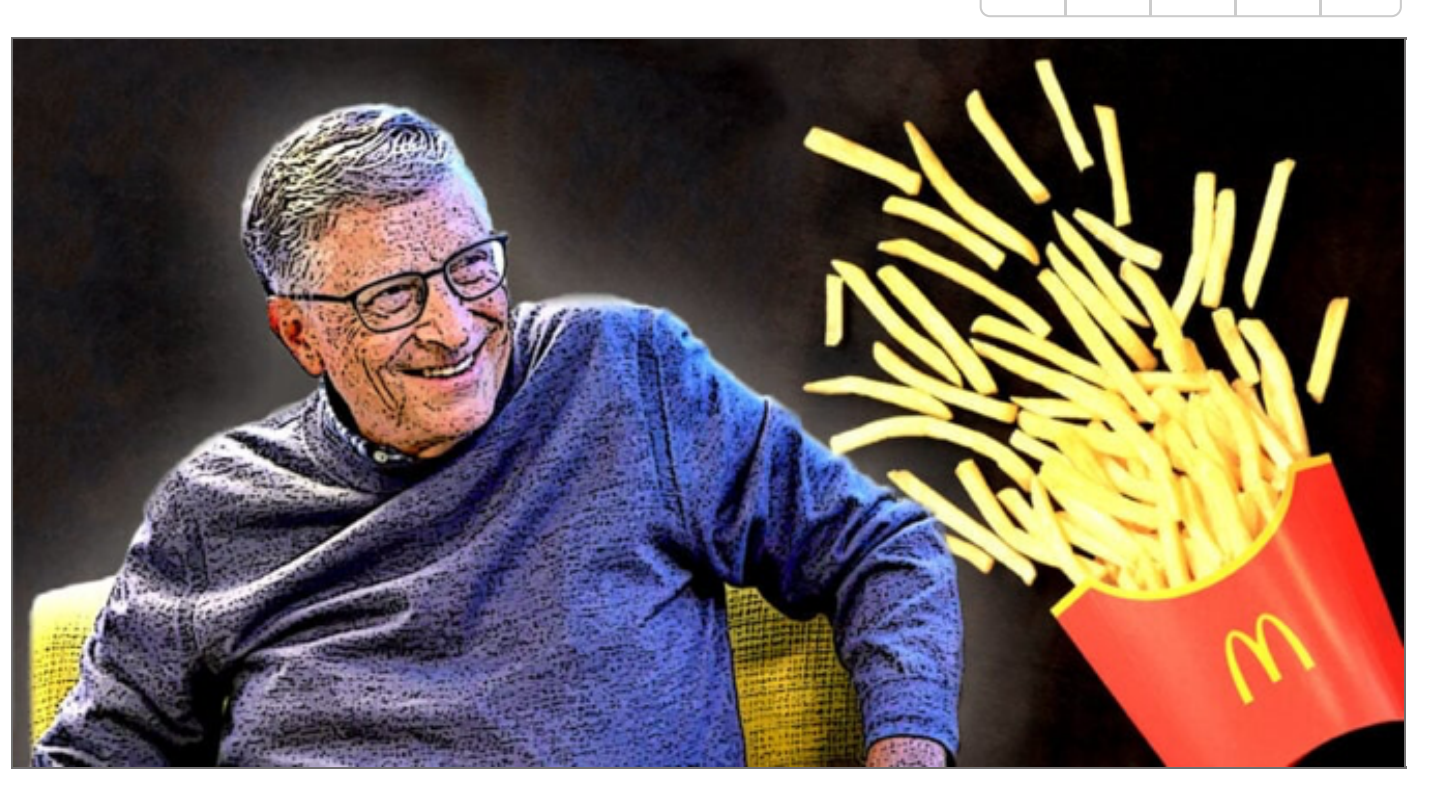
03/29/24 • BIG FOOD › NEWS

# Bill Gates, GMO Potatoes and McDonald's French Fries — What's the Story?

*Fact-checkers swooped in after social media memes claiming Bill Gates owns a farm that produces GMO potatoes for McDonald's started gaining traction. Some memes got their facts wrong. But the fact is, Gates is rapidly acquiring farmland.*

**By Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D.**

34



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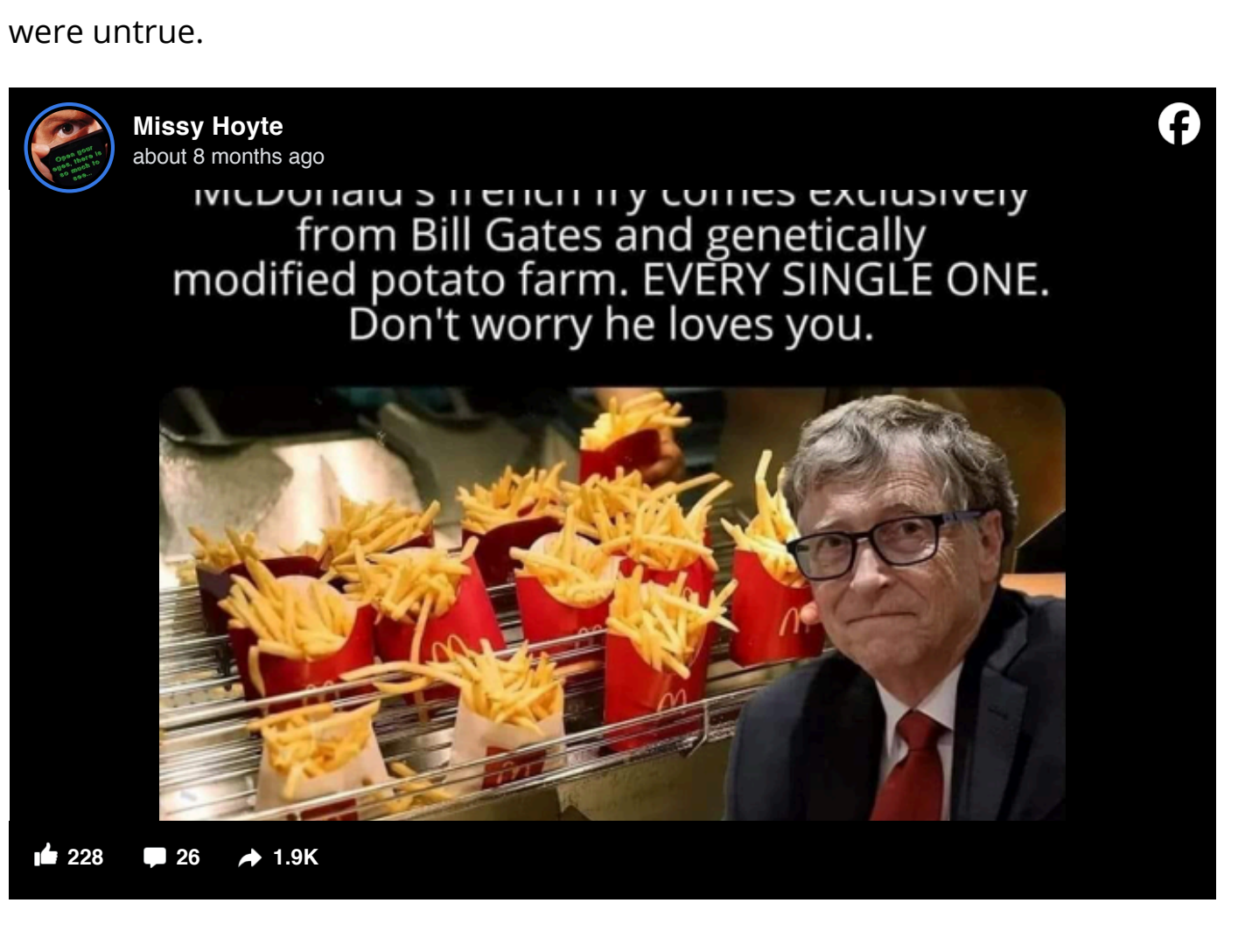
Fact-checkers swooped in after social media memes claiming Bill Gates owns a farm that produces genetically modified organism (GMO) potatoes for McDonald's started gaining traction.

A March 25 Snopes "fact-check" verified that Gates does own a farm in Washington that grows potatoes for McDonald's. But Snopes said statements made by other memes — claiming Gates supplies McDonald's with all of its french fries and that they are grown at a "genetically modified potato farm" — were untrue.



Missy Hoyte
about 8 months ago

McDonald's french fry comes exclusively from Bill Gates and genetically modified potato farm. EVERY SINGLE ONE. Don't worry he loves you.

228 26 1.9K

None of the memes — or fact-checkers — addressed Gates' growing investments in U.S. farmland or the use of pesticides on non-organic potatoes.

And none questioned why someone who promotes himself as concerned about global health — largely through global vaccine campaigns — would supply ingredients for a product known to contribute to cardiovascular conditions and weight gain and that contains 19 ingredients, including canola oil, soybean oil, hydrogenated soybean oil, dimethylpolysiloxane, tertiary butylhydroquinone, or TBHQ, and citric acid.

## Gates still scooping up farmland — through 20 holding companies

But while Gates may not own the other farms that supply potatoes to McDonald's, by 2021 he had become the largest single owner of farmland in the U.S. — albeit through a web of holding companies. By January 2021, Gates owned 268,984 acres of U.S. farmland in 18 states.

According to VNExpress, these holdings also make Gates the 42nd largest overall landowner in the U.S., "with most of those ranked above him owning mostly timberland."

According to British fact-checker Full Fact:

> "McDonald's potatoes are sourced from farms all over the world. One potato supplier listed on the McDonald's USA website is owned by Bill Gates' investment firm, but it's not true to say all potatoes used by the fast food chain are from Mr Gates."

That "one" supplier, 100 Circle Farms, "is not the only potato supplier to McDonald's USA." The farm "is located near the Columbia River in Patteson, Washington, and grows potatoes in rotation with other crops such as sweet corn and wheat."

According to Snopes, 100 Circle Farms "is part of a large tract of farmland in Washington, near the Oregon-border, that Gates purchased through holding companies in 2018."

"The Wuhan Cover-Up" by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
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McDonald's claims that "100 Circle Farms grows potatoes in circles so big they're visible from space. Then our trusted processor, Lamb Weston, cuts them into fries at 70 miles per hour."

According to The Land Report, 100 Circle Farm's acreage includes 10,500 acres of irrigated farmland, 3,900 acres of rangeland, and 140 acres of other land. The tract is located in a" highly productive agricultural region known as Horse Heaven Hills." The land's prior owner, John Hancock Life Insurance, paid $75 million in 2010 for the land.

A Tri-City Herald report highlighting the tangled web of holding companies that obfuscates Gates' farmland ownership, 100 Circle Farm was sold in 2018 to a Louisiana company, Angelina Agriculture Company.

Angelina Ag is a subsidiary company of Oak River Farms, a company that manages agricultural holdings for Cascade Investment — which operates as Gates' private investment firm.

According to The Land Report:

> "Though domiciled in Louisiana, Angelina Ag Company shares the same corporate mailing address as Gates's Cottonwood Ag Management in Kirkland, Washington. Cottonwood Ag did not respond to inquiries from The Land Report."

"Cascade, according to its website, does not publicly discuss its assets," Snopes reported. Full Fact "contacted both Cascade Asset Management Company and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation concerning these land holdings" but said they declined to comment publicly.

## Gates' network of holding companies 'tangled and opaque'

Gates has continued to buy farmland since The Land Report story was published in 2021.

In January, Investigate Midwest reported that Gates "spent $113 million on Nebraska farmland" between 2018 and 2022.

The Investigate Midwest report also shed more light on the web of companies connected to Gates that have purchased farmland across the U.S.:

> "Gates' farmland is held by more than 20 shell companies spread across the country. Some lead back to a P.O. Box in Kirkland, Washington, the city where Cascade Asset Management, which manages all Gates' investments, is headquartered.
>
> "Others are linked to Lenexa, Kansas, and Monterey, Louisiana, population 371, where reporters have previously traced Gates' operations.
>
> "These limited liability companies, buried under layers of business names, overlapping employees and addresses in at least three states, form a network more tangled and opaque than the one created by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which is buying a giant amount of Nebraska ranch land."

According to the report, if Gates turns over ownership of the land to a nonprofit organization — like the Gates Foundation — he could potentially make the land "exempt from property taxes."

Nebraska state Sen. Tom Brewer, a Republican, told Investigate Midwest if that were to happen, it would "decimate" the counties where Gates' holdings are located. "It would force action from the Legislature to protect the counties," Brewer said.

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## Why is Gates buying farmland? 'Because he can.'

Controversy over Gates' growing ownership of farmland is not new.

During a March 2021 Reddit AMA ("Ask Me Anything") session, Gates explained why he was "buying so much farmland":

> "My investment group chose to do this. It is not connected to climate. The agriculture sector is important. With more productive seeds we can avoid deforestation and help Africa deal with the climate difficulty they already face.
>
> "It is unclear how cheap biofuels can be but if they are cheap it can solve the aviation and truck emissions."

And in a 2023 Reddit AMA session, Gates made similar claims:

> "I own less than 1/4000 of the farmland in the U.S. I have invested in these farms to make them more productive and create more jobs. There isn't some grand scheme involved. In fact, all these decisions are made by a professional investment team."

Mark Kastel, director of OrganicEye, is not convinced. He told The Defender:

> "The danger is exploiting the environment and the people (workers) involved in the operations. There could be downsides for society if these enterprises fail after squeezing out more sustainable competitors. The potential for a deterioration in the safety and/or nutritional density in our food certainly exists."

Kastel said Gates' strategy appears to reflect a desire for consolidating control over land ownership.

"The humorist Will Rogers said in the 1930s, 'Buy land — they aren't making any more of it!' And his messaging was to individuals, not corporate landholders. It's disturbing when an industry sector, so important to our well-being, is being viewed as an 'investment,'" Kastel said.

Why is Gates buying farmland? "Because he can," said Howard Vlieger, a member of the board of advisers of GMO/Toxin Free USA. "The Department of Justice has allowed too many monopolies to occur in numerous marketplaces in our country."

Vlieger said industry consolidation "favors a select few and stacks the deck against those who believe in playing by the rules. Those who will cut every corner and don't have morals or ethics seem to be rewarded."

Kastel also likened Gates' growing stake in U.S. farmland to the former Soviet Union's centralized agriculture system:

> "Centralized or corporate control of farming has proven to be a failure. That was tried in the Soviet Union and led to starvation.
>
> "Farmers have a unique and broad skill set that's not easily replicated. The work is arduous with long hours. And it's hard to fairly and adequately compensate someone when they don't have an equity stake."

According to Kastel, mass concentrated ownership of farmland comes at the expense of care and stewardship of farmland.

"An attachment to the land fosters long-term stewardship priorities and we risk doing permanent ecological and economic damage if farm ground is exploited," he said.

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Vlieger drew comparisons with the livestock and meatpacking industry, which he said is similarly concentrated in the hands of a small number of owners.

"The concerns about the abuses of market concentration and subsequent market power are easy to see by looking at the overall agriculture and food production sector," Vlieger said. "Eighty-five percent of the livestock are slaughtered by four packers. This has forced thousands of independent cattle producers out of business."

This can lead to supply chain disruptions and market shortages, Vlieger added. He cited the empty grocery store shelves at the beginning of the pandemic as an example.

"If this isn't a prime example of the dangers of consolidation, I don't know what is. The more diverse network you have for locally produced food, the more food security you will have for all," he said.

## Gates' non-GMO potatoes 'contaminated with agrochemical residues'

Full Fact said the Gates-McDonald's french fry memes got it wrong on the issue of genetically modified potatoes. "None of the potatoes from 100 Circles Farm are genetically modified," Full Fact said.

But the fact-checker also said, "There have been reports of other GM ingredients being used in the McDonald's supply chain, such as soybeans for oil or corn to feed animal stock."

Kastel said this argument is misleading, "because genetically engineered potatoes are not common."

"Even non-GMO crops, unless they're certified organic, typically are contaminated with agrochemical residues and potentially other compounds — spreading sewage sludge, contaminated with industrial chemicals, is forbidden in organic production but a common practice in conventional agriculture," Kastel said.

Vlieger advised consumers to pay close attention to food product labels:

> "If food products in the grocery store do not contain the Non-GMO certification, it is best to presume that it is GMO. I personally will not eat any potato product unless I know where and how it is produced. I know how conventional potatoes are raised and I don't care to consume foreign proteins from GMOs or the chemical residues that come along with it. Potatoes are very efficient at removing chemical residues form the soil.
>
> "I think it might be a good idea if people would read the complete ingredient list before consuming any food item. There is a trustworthy saying, if you cannot pronounce it or you don't know what it is, don't eat it."

Vlieger said "Mass-produced commodity crop production is dependent upon chemical intensive, industrial agriculture. This is not good for the health of the environment, the plants, the animals or the people."

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**Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D.**
Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D., based in Athens, Greece, is a senior reporter for The Defender and part of the rotation of hosts for CHD.TV's "Good Morning CHD."

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**BChristine**
a month ago
Everything Gates does is evil and self-rewarding, make no mistake. Yet MSM makes him out to be this incredible and compassionate person who contributes so much of his time and money to humanity. *Nothing could be further from the truth.*
27 0 Reply

**GarySummers** → BChristine
24 days ago edited
"THINKING"
**"*Plus Bill Gates and the Gates Foundation, needs to be Deposed, Plus "all" Communications involving him and his Foundation with the FDA. Subpoenaed"***
We need to know if his secret MOU with the FDA played **'any' Role in Suppressing Ivermectin, and Hydroxy, which could have SAVED Legions!**
https://www.zerohedge.com/p...
3 0 Reply

**Peter van der Stam** → GarySummers
23 days ago
Of course he was ONE of them.
From Ivermectin and Hydroxi He would NOT be able to make such a profit..
As soon as I see his name I shudder.
2 0 Reply

**Robert Sagramati** → GarySummers
20 days ago
Definitely so, if not, HOW COULD HE HAVE MADE HIS 20 TIMES RETURN ON HIS "VACCINE INVESTMENTS". Imagine, removing a REAL safe & effective medicine cure that would have saved millions, to push an experimental deadly serum!!!? Lots of money went into that SCAM in order render this possible while killing & injuring millions. This is only the beginning, tip of the iceberg, since I'm convinced that MANY MORE DEATHS & INJURIES will come in the next 5 years!!
0 0 Reply

**Robert Sagramati** → BChristine
20 days ago
ABSOLUTELY TRUE & CORRECT. This evil Tyrant who pushes for DEPOPULATION & CONTROL is only interested in reducing the World population through his PHILANTROPIC "SCHEMES" and make money (lots of it) in doing so. MSM TV & NEWSPAPERS receive lots of money from this CREEP so that they can only say "good" about this legal criminal, just like ALL THE OTHER ENTITIES THAT RECEIVE (ON HIS PAYROLL) money from this Tyrant.
1 0 Reply

**GS**
a month ago
From poisoning food, peddling killer jabs to being one of the main cogs in the election heist cabal, he can justifiably be labeled Public Enemy Number 1.
24 0 Reply

**holisticpoet**
a month ago
Why is Gates buying farm land? Why is Oregon targeting small farmers in an attempt to drive them out of business? Without competition large farms can name their price. Let me ask you if you think that Gates really cares about helping out his fellow man like he claims? You know, like how he attempts to convince everyone to take the Covid jab for their own good.
22 0 Reply

**Peter van der Stam** → holisticpoet
23 days ago
HIS own good. Is that what you mean??
0 0 Reply

**Mark J McGinty**
a month ago
Gates has a long history of ruthless business practices, he has no qualms with destroying small businesses and exploits everything he can. His common tactic when he wants to acquire and entity that resists is to buy it's suppliers and biggest customers, then starve it into bankruptcy. He masquerades as a philanthropist, the whole vaccine thing is an investment, he wields his checkbook as a weapon, he buys control. The man is effing evil, he is a parasite, sucking the life out of this world.
17 0 Reply

**brbg** → Mark J McGinty
25 days ago
Gates is a globalist. he was also involved in the distribution of "Tetanus vaccine to young pregnant women in 5 countries. That vaccine contained Human Gonadotropin Hormone which, after the woman delivered her baby would forever trick her body into thinking it is still pregnant, thus sterilizing her. he is a proponent of depopulation.
4 0 Reply

**Peter van der Stam** → Mark J McGinty
23 days ago
He is NOT doing it himself. He is too stupid for that.
He blundered out of high school remember.
He has his donkeys carrying the buckets.
1 0 Reply

**Trump Fan**
a month ago
He is so EVIL!
12 0 Reply

**boxerdoglover**
a month ago
They are GMO..and Fates could give 2 craps about anyone else.
10 0 Reply

**lonergr88**
a month ago
Read an article a few years back that stated that McD's fries were gmo'd so they would grow longer potatoes and they had to outgas toxins in a shed for several months before they could be processed. I personally dropped a McD fry under the driver's seat by accident. Decided to leave it and see what happened. It stayed the same for over 8 years, until some tidy mechanic destroyed my experiment. :)
9 0 Reply

**robertsgt40**
a month ago edited
SNOPES is a joke. Check their background..front man organization. It's all or nothing time. There will be no middle ground. This is the year we sink or swim.
7 0 Reply

**Barbara Guillette**
a month ago
That's the point ,if you control the food supply you control the population. Famine anyone? Conglomeration is bad for business.
6 0 Reply

**kathleen T Quinlan**
a month ago
Gates also participated in the use of tetanus shots with the addition of the hormone that prevents pregnancy in 3 African countries. Kenya is one. Some women are sterilized by it.
6 0 Reply

**Zoe**
25 days ago
We have Gates and Fauci controlling our food, what could possibly go wrong!!!!
5 0 Reply

**Kali Katsu**
a month ago edited
Hard to imagine anyone anywhere still trusts or likes BG.... As for spuds, I completely stopped eating them about 3 years ago. I used to think, "Oh, they're a vegetable." Now I see them as tainted, dangerous, fake, starchy fodder laced with God knows what. Don't eat 'em!
5 0 Reply

**tag** → Kali Katsu
23 days ago
Grow your own from organic starts. Potatos aren't bad just the evil idiots that have destroyed them.
1 0 Reply

**Ricky Ricardo**
25 days ago
Billy boy is pure EVIL and you can bet that any venture that he is involved in, has evil intent behind it. AFAIK; all "russet" potatoes are GMO, unless labelled organic. I found a page that backs up my claim:
https://www.livestrong.com/...
4 0 Reply

**Voyt Regnal** → Ricky Ricardo
25 days ago edited
Billy is 'nothing', just like potatos he cultivates. Sure, he tries here or there..but his main 'role' is to get peoples' attention, so they miss the true culprits. Explore this site ...go to the bottom:
https://www.bibliotecapleya...
1 0 Reply

**Bry**
25 days ago
Interesting that Gates never gets targeted for anything. He's buying farmland with profits made from selling the death shots.
4 0 Reply

**Dan Meyer**
25 days ago
What quicker way to depopulate than less-then-edible food?
4 0 Reply

**Junkgrl**
25 days ago
Underneath much of his land is the huge Ogallala Aquifier. If he owns the water, he owns our lives.He can extract it for his own greedy purposes.
4 0 Reply

**Isthisthingon** → Junkgrl
25 days ago
However, I feel I just read an article here on the Defender that indicated the USA just labeled all Water Public Domain and therefore can regulate water usage on Private Land; this is how they are putting the screws to Small Farmers!
Not sure how the Saudis get to own so much of American Farmland-some backdoor deals I'm sure. From my understanding they are Draining the Aquafer in Arizona to ship Hay overseas so they can eat more beef!
I want to know if Bill Gates invested in the New Human Remains Liquification Machine Washington State just got up in running about a year ago?
Bill Gates is invested in Everything Against Our Actual Real Health and Happiness! All his so-called philanthropic endeavors are Tax Havens and Fronts! How Bullied as a child was he? Sociopath!
Soylent Green is People!
4 0 Reply

**Barbara Guillette**
a month ago
The Netherlands farmers are not farming their protesting and becoming popular in the US over fines by the WEF so where is food going to come from I know in Detroit Michigan is the US office of the WEF, and also huge food storage facilities are also located in Michigan if I remember correctly
I also read that the Netherlands ports and trade routs are being usurped by the WEF.
4 0 Reply

**tag**
23 days ago
Hopefully Gates dines at McDonalds everyday of his life.
3 0 Reply

**CastleConnell**
25 days ago
'You will own nothing and....' does that mean Schwab, Gates, Rockefellers etc... too? Of course not, it is all about the land, yes, they are not making any more of it, and there are 8 billion people who would like to share it which means less for the super-rich, unless they can corral everyone into the pens of smart cities, and keep the wide-open spaces for themselves, in my humble opinion.
3 0 Reply

**Little O**
25 days ago edited

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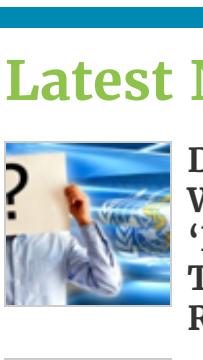

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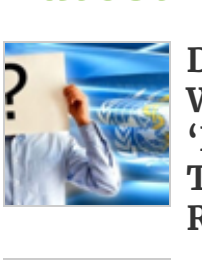

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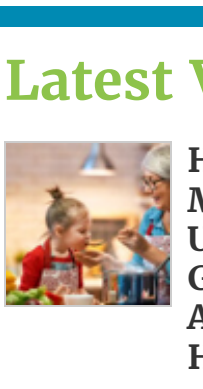

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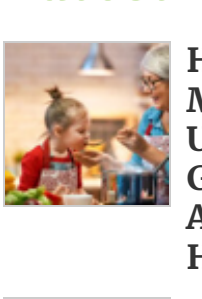

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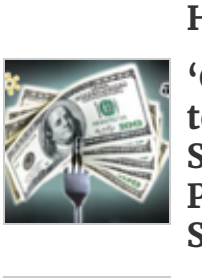

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Just remember Fellow Patriots that in October 2017 (the real) POTUS DJT signed an Executive Order that I read multiple times to be sure. He directed the Dept of Treasury to begin seizing the assets of any person, organization, etc. involved in trafficking OR corruption. THAT afternoon, the CEO of Alphabet, Eric Schmidt, which is the parent company of Google, RESIGNED "to do more philanthropic work and spend more time with my family." Think so? Just days later the CEO of AT&T resigned. Note that the E.O. was not more specific than "trafficking" and "corruption" THUS the DoT had broad reach. So evil Bill Gates can buy and own all the property he wants but, last time I looked long ago (2021), that E.O. had not been removed. Recently I went to whitehouse.gov and the layout had been changed and I wasn't able to find it and would have had to spend many hours to attempt to find it. Biden's minions finally "got around to it."
Don't believe it. Liable Attorney Lin Wood - a confidant of Trumps - said in Jan 2021 pre-Biden - "Do you think that Donald J Trump wants to go down in history as the worst President ever?" Of course not.

So what do you think will happen to all of the assets seized by Trump's government and in recent years by White Hat patriots still doing their duty?

👍 3 👎 0 Reply

**brbg**

25 days ago

Well, it is the globalist plan to control all of the food in the world.

👍 2 👎 0 Reply

R

**Robert Sagramati**

19 days ago

By the way, aside from "investing" in all aspects of industries which bottom line is for a Totalitarian & Controlled Social system, one of the last schemes he's involved heavily in, is CLIMATE ALTERING ENGINEERING & MOSQUITO CULTURES modified & to transmit ????? I wonder??

👍 0 👎 0 Reply

J

**Jennifo**

25 days ago

Potatoes ate highly inflammatory. I stopped eating corn, wheat, potatoes, rice years ago and all of my arthritic pain went away. I lost 10 lbs in one month and my mid section fluff I fought since a teenager.

I encourage you to also stop. You'd be surprised at how much energy you get if you stop.

👍 0 👎 1 Reply

**tag** ➜ Jennifo

23 days ago

At 5 5 and less than 100 lbs I eat potatoes everyday...my own home grown ones. One size doesn't fit all. Arthritis at 70 is the least of my worries.

👍 0 👎 0 Reply

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